



# U.S. Embassy Santiago Newsletter

Information for American Citizens in Chile

Volume 1 Issue 3

July-August 2006



## YOU ARE INVITED!!

### INDEPENDENCE DAY FLAG RAISING

The annual Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony will be held at the Embassy on July 4 at 9 am. The American Association of Chile (AAC) will co-host the event. All Americans living in Chile and their immediate family members are cordially invited to attend. In addition the flag raising, a Quartet from Brigham Young University will perform and the American Association of Chile chorus will host a sing-along of patriotic songs. The Embassy Employee Recreation Association will provide light refreshments and Embassy-logo items will be available for purchase.

The main street entrance will open and begin admitting visitors at 8 am. US citizens wishing to attend this event must show a valid US passport to enter the embassy compound. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying family members who are not US citizens must show either a Chilean carnet or a third-country passport. Paid parking is available at Plaza Peru. Please be advised that no backpacks will be permitted. Cellular phones cannot be permitted onto the Embassy grounds, but will be held by the guards at the main entrance and returned at the end of the ceremony. Cameras are permitted, but must be declared upon entrance onto the compound.

### PRESIDENT BUSH MEETS WITH CHILEAN PRESIDENT BACHELET

US President George W. Bush and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet met at the White House on June 8. US Ambassador to Chile Craig Kelly traveled to Washington for the meeting. During their talks, the two Presidents discussed regional issues, energy, and the expansion of education exchanges between the US and Chile.



### CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY

Americans in Chile are reminded to please fill out and return the Customer Survey that was sent by the Embassy on June 8. The information from last year's survey formed the basis of several changes (including this newsletter), and we would appreciate your input.

### ***SPOTLIGHT: OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL***

The Overseas Security Advisory Council works with the US Government to promote security cooperation between the US Department of State and private sector interests around the world. For information about Santiago and how your company can become a constituent, visit the OSAC Santiago Country Council page at <http://santiago.osac.gov/>.

## **EMBASSY CO-SPONSORS AVIAN FLU SEMINAR**



The Embassy, in cooperation with the Pan-American Health Organization, hosted a May 25 seminar entitled “Avian Influenza: Global Response”. The seminar was held at the American Academy of Science and Technology, located at the University of Talca’s Santiago Campus. The seminar was opened by Ambassador Kelly and was the second of three events designed to examine the challenges posed by Avian Influenza and the world’s response to those challenges.

Several noted health experts served as presenters at the seminar. Dr. Joxel Garcia, Deputy Director of the Pan American Health Organization, focused on global cooperation in the face of the Avian Influenza pandemic threat. Dr. Francisco Bahomonde, director of Chile’s Animal Plant Health Service (SAG), discussed Chile’s strategies for prevention and response. Dr. Christopher Brand, coordinator of Avian Influenza Sciences for the National Wildlife Health Center of the US Geological Survey, examined the link between migratory birds and the virus that causes the disease.

The American Academy of Science and Technology is a joint initiative of the US Embassy and the University of Talca. It brings together the scientific communities of Chile and the United States, creating a space for meetings, dialogue, and seminars in the fields of science and technology.

## **INCREASING CRIME IN SANTIAGO**

Americans living in Santiago and throughout Chile are reminded there has been an increase in criminal activity and that they should be particularly mindful of their personal security.

When walking in the streets, make sure that your wallet is not visible, and that your purse or bag is completely closed. Remain vigilant for suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Any suspicious activities or persons should be reported to the Carabineros.

Homes that are not well-secured are more likely to be robbed, especially at night, or when the home is vacant. Residents should make sure that their doors and windows are completely closed, and that the alarm is activated both day and night. The alarm should also be activated whether the house is occupied or vacant, in order to minimize the time an intruder has to be in the house. Valuables should be kept in a safe at your work, or in a strong box in your home, outside plain-view.

## **CONSULAR INFORMATION SHEET UPDATE**

The Consular Information Sheet for Chile was updated on March 31, 2006. All Americans are encouraged to access the sheet for the latest information. It can be accessed at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Users should click on International Travel, then on Consular Information Sheets, to view the full list.

### **WORLDWIDE CAUTION**

On June 6, 2006, the Department of State issued a Worldwide Caution updating information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against Americans and interests overseas. Americans are encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, and to remain in contact with the closest US embassy or consulate. The Department of State shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available at <http://travel.state.gov>.

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**The American Association of Chile:** a non-profit, non-political organization serving and uniting the citizens of the United States and their families, and striving to build strong bridges between our members and the Chilean community (description from AAC's website). [www.aachile.org](http://www.aachile.org)

**The American Chamber of Commerce Chile (AMCHAM Chile)** To promote free trade and investment between Chile and the United States and to be an effective voice for the membership while facilitating related services (description from AMCHAM's website). <http://www.amchamchile.cl/>

**Little League Chile** Do you know a child who would like to play baseball? Would you like to get involved with youth baseball. Contact Mr. Jorge Varela at 228-9768.

**International Professional Women's Association (IPWA):** a not-for-profit organization of English-speaking women interested in professional, personal and cultural development. Activities include monthly meetings, dinner and cocktail parties. More information is available at: [www.ipwasantiago.cl](http://www.ipwasantiago.cl)

**English Language Religious Services in Santiago** Details are available on the Embassy website [www.usembassy.cl](http://www.usembassy.cl) under the Frequently Asked Questions tab under American Citizens. (schedules are subject to change. Please call to confirm.)

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS?** Please send them to [Santiago Amcit@state.gov](mailto:SantiagoAMCIT@state.gov)



U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with U.S. Embassy Santiago's Marine Detachment at the Grand Hyatt Santiago Hotel on March 11, 2006.

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**Note:** this newsletter is available with graphics on the Embassy website [www.usembassy.cl](http://www.usembassy.cl) under the American Citizen Services tab.